

Message Text

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11

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

SAL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 IO-12 AGR-20

RSR-01 /174 W

----- 061626

R 300139 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4107

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USADB

BANGKOK FOR RED

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E. O. 11652 ADS, DECLAS 3/14/74

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, XC

SUBJECT: ADB RELATIONSHIP WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF (A) BANGKOK 3899; (B) MANILA 2867

SUMMARY: USADB BELIEVES RED CABLE NOT ACCURATE PORTRAYAL
ADB' S INTEREST IN SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. INTERESTED
ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD APPROACH ADB WHICH HERETOFORE HAS
SHOWN RECEPTIVITY TO PROPOSALS FROM REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

1. PARA 7, REF B, RESPONDED TO SPECIFICS OF PARAS 1 AND 2.

2. IN GENERAL DO NOT BELIEVE REF A PRESENTS ACCURATE
PICTURE ADB RELATIONSHIPS WITH SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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NOR OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO AFFILIATE ITSELF WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES.

3. ADB HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN ASIA'S REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, WHICH HAS INCLUDED COOPERATION WITH ECAFE, FINANCING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT SURVEY, COOPERATION WITH SEATAC, ASSISTANCE TO THE VEGETABLE RESEARCH CENTER, CONDUCTING A COCONUT INDUSTRY STUDY, ASSISTING THE LAWASIA CREDIT AND SECURITY RESEARCH PROJECT AND CONTRIBUTING ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF COST OF ASIAN INDUSTRIAL SURVEY. WE HAVE GENERALLY FOUND ADB TO BE OPEN TO IDEAS AND SURPRISINGLY FLEXIBLE IN ITS THINKING ABOUT NEW WAYS IN WHICH IT MAY ASSIST ASIA'S DEVELOPMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, ADB FINANCED A STUDY OF AIEDP AS THE RESULT OF A REQUEST FROM ITS DIRECTOR, EVEN BEFORE IT HAD ASSESSED ITS OWN OR ASIA'S TRAINING NEED -- IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO SAY THAT UNTIL THE NEED WAS ASSESSED, AIEDP'S PROPOSAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.

4. HOWEVER, PROOF OF PUDDING IS IN EATING. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH ADB STAFF; WHILE THEY ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH STAFFS OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WERE REBUFFED. IF SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BELIEVE ADB TYPE OF ASSISTANCE COULD BE HELPFUL TO THEM, THEY SHOULD APPROACH BANK WITH SPECIFIC IDEAS AND PROPOSALS. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL FIND ADB RECEPTIVE. IF THEY DO NO, THAT IS THE TIME TO INTERCEDE.

5. ADB IS HARDWORKING, UNDERSTAFFED ORGANIZATION, EXPANDING ITS ACTIVITY IN MANY DIRECTIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON LOANS TO INDIVIDUAL ASIAN COUNTRIES. WHILE ADB IS AND SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IT IS ONLY ONE FACET OF ITS ROLE, AND SEA ONLY PART OF ADB DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP. DO NOT BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE FOR U. S. TO PUSH ADB ON SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UNTIL IT IS CLEAR WHAT ROLE ADB WILL PLAY IN POSTWAR SEA'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOW HEAVY THAT BURDEN WILL BE. HOWEVER, AGREE ADB SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO FIRM OVERTURES FROM REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE DEFINED POSSIBLE ADB ROLE. IN ANY CASE, SEE NO NEED FOR NAC CONSULTATION AND DO NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO HAVE U. S. GOVERNOR RAISE THIS QUESTION AT SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.
BYROAD

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